

of twelve years at the University of Strassburg, and was prepared for the press at the solicitation of friends.

The author enters a disclaimer as to any originality except in the selection of the material and its presentation. His purpose is quite other than that of GRISEBACH, DRUDE, and SCHIMPER, who have sought to present the facts of plant distribution in a comprehensive way. SOLMS-LAUBACH discusses several large topics, whose enumeration sufficiently indicates the scope of his work: species and their alteration in time; the habitat; the occupation of habitats by species; the disturbance of the equilibrium of distribution by external causes; island floras. In discussing these topics he cites illustrative examples, but omits pictures and lists of vegetation. A historical introduction and a brief recapitulation of the most general principles of geographic distribution form a suitable preface to the special topics.

Under the topic "the species" we find a discussion of the origin both of the concept and the corresponding plant groups, in which the concepts of LINNAEUS and JORDAN and the theories of LAMARCK, DARWIN, NÄGELI, and DEVRIES are set forth. The topic "habitat" includes a discussion of the relations of external factors to plant form—"adaptations" in the broadest sense. The means and methods of distribution, which make it possible for plants to occupy a habitat, are described briefly. Alterations in the habitat by invasion of plants, and especially secular alterations of climate, such as that involved in the last glacial period, with the consequent migrations, are discussed at some length. The insular floras, as conditioned by the hindrances to plant distribution, are characterized briefly.

As a book for reading in connection with the more systematic works, these lectures will be found serviceable as well as interesting.—C. R. B.

MINOR NOTICES

Contributions from the Gray Herbarium.—The current number of this series⁵ contains four parts: I. "New species of *Senecio* and *Schoenocaulon* from Mexico," by J. M. GREENMAN, 3 new species of the former genus and 2 of the latter being described. II. "New or otherwise noteworthy spermatophytes, chiefly from Mexico," by B. L. ROBINSON, new species being described under *Tigridia*, *Schoepfia*, *Mimosa*, *Pedilanthus*, *Bonplandia*, *Brittonastrum* (3), *Russelia*, *Stemodia*, *Piqueria*, *Stevia* (2), *Eupatorium* (10), *Brickellia*, *Guardiola*, *Zinnia*, *Perymenium*, *Coreopsis*, *Tridax*, *Pericome*, *Tagetes*, *Cacalia* (3), *Perezia* (2); and two new genera of *Compositae*, *Cymophora* (*Helianthieae*) and *Loxothysanus* (*Helenieae*). III. "New plants from Guatemala and Mexico, collected chiefly by C. C. DEAM," by B. L. ROBINSON and H. H. BARTLETT, new species being described under *Polypodium*, *Paspalum*, *Fuirena*, *Myriocarpa*, *Polygonum*, *Ruprechtia*, *Aeschynomene*, *Mimosa*, *Tetrapteris*, *Euphorbia*, *Acalypha*, *Clusia*, *Rinorea*,

⁵ Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, N. S. 34. Proc. Amer. Acad. 43:19-68. 1907.

Hybanthus, Ipomoea, Cordia, Russelia, Tetramerium, Isertia, Liabum (2).
IV. "Diagnoses of new spermatophytes from Mexico," by M. L. FERNALD, new species being described under Carex, Alnus (2), Heliotropium, Salvia (9), Castilleja, Ruellia.—J. M. C.

Bicentenary of Linné.—In connection with the Linnean celebration at the University of Upsala, a series of eight publications has been issued. In general the volumes contain reprints of some of the most interesting minor papers of Linné, which thus become accessible to a far greater number of readers. For example, the "Invitation du recteur pour assister aux fêtes" is a paper of 107 pages, consisting chiefly of a reprint of Linné's "Cultur der Pflanzen." The announcements in reference to the conferring of doctor's degrees in philosophy, medicine, law, and theology are four volumes of reprints. There is also a special publication, "Linné och Vaxtodlingen," edited by Swederus. The first (pp. 341) of four volumes containing the correspondence of Linné is also included. The most elaborate member of the series is the "Linnéporträtt," prefaced by a colored portrait of Linné, and containing reproductions of numerous other portraits, busts, medals, etc., as well as a description of the 515 portraits (paintings, medals, etc.) in the collection of the University. The University of Upsala has certainly spared no labor and expense in doing honor to her illustrious professor.—J. M. C.

Genera Siphonogamarum.—The tenth fascicle of DALLA TORRE and HARMS'S⁶ list of the genera of seed-plants continues the general alphabetical list of names, the last entry being Macrocarpium.—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Fungi in termite nests.—PETCH gives an account of the fungi found in certain termite nests in Ceylon, which grow from the combs found in the chambers. The fungus flora of the combs in their normal state seems to be limited to few species which occur almost pure. The only form on the normal comb is a hyphomycete which was not determined, but from the descriptions seems to be like Sterigmato-cystis. This fungus seems to be endemic in the nests, according to the author not being found outside them.

When the combs grow old they give rise to two forms of agarics, which, however, the author regards as one species. Both have been described under several names from material sent to Europe. These agarics arise from combs at a considerable depth below the surface, so that their rootlike stalks attain an average length of 30^{cm}. The lower part of the stalk is black, while the upper portion is white. The first form is marked by the absence of an annulus and by the peculiar fact that only a single plant develops from each comb. Although a large number start, only one pushes its way to the surface of the ground. All the other rudiments fail entirely to develop, so that it is not possible to find specimens which have

⁶ DALLA TORRE, C. G. DE, and HARMS, H., Genera Siphonogamarum ad systema Englerianum conscripta. Fasc. 10. pp. 721-800. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1907. M 6.